

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

1. Interview with the Examiner on September 15, 2004

The Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for granting the personal interview on September 15, 2004.

At the interview, the Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the various inventive features of the present application in view of the prior art references cited in the previous Office Actions. More specifically, it was pointed out that the method of claim 29 and the display device of 53 recite data streams and control signals which are "individually distinct" from one another. The Examiner was shown that support is clearly found in the present application for the description of "individually distinct" data stream and control signal. Thus, any issues related to support in the written description for this inventive feature of claims 28 and 53 were resolved.

It was shown that the disclosure of Nishida (U.S. Patent 6,097,351) does not describe the discussed feature of claims 29 and 53 of the present application, and specific reference was made to FIG. 4 in the Nishida disclosure which merely shows a display signal that incorporate both a control communication and data information. Support for this interpretation of the display signal was also shown in the Nishida disclosure in col. 7, line 25 through col. 8, line 24.

Additional features concerning the data stream and the control signal of the present application were also discussed and such features are presented in new claims 57-62.

The Examiner informed Applicants' representative that the proposed amendments to the claims and the new claims may require further consideration or a

new search. Thus, a Request for Continued Examination has been filed concurrently herewith thereby removing the finality of the rejection of the claims in the Office Action of May 18, 2004.

2. In the Claims

a. Claims 29 and 53

As indicated above, claims 29 and 53 have been amended to recite that the data stream and the control signal are individually distinct. As was shown at the interview, support for this feature is clearly shown in FIG. 5 and described in the written description on pages 6-7 (line 18 of page 6 through line 30 of page 7).

b. Claims 57 through 62

Regarding new claims 57, 58, 60 and 61, support for the features recited in these claims also found in FIG. 5 and in the written description on pages 6-7 (line 18 of page 6 through line 30 of page 7). Support for new claims 59 and 62 is found in the written description on page 15 (lines 18-26). Applicants assert that the features of new claims 57-62 may be found in the depiction of the data stream and control signal in FIG. 5.

Acceptance of the amendments claims 29 and 53, and new claims 57-62 is respectfully requested in the next communication from the Examiner.

3. Rejection of claims 29-50 and 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

As pointed out above, the amendment to claims 29 and 53 clearly finds support in the written description and the drawings of the present application. Claims 28-50, depend directly or indirectly from claim 29, and claims 54-56 depend directly or indirectly from claim 53. Thus, in view of the amendment of claims 29 and 53, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claims 29-33, 37, 38, 49, 50 and 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,097,351 (Nishida)

Claims 29-33, 37, 38, 49, 50 and 53-56 currently stand rejected as being anticipated by the disclosure of Nishida. As pointed out above, claims 30-33, 37, 38, 49 and 50 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 29, and claims 54-56 depend directly or indirectly from claim 53. In view of the amendment of claims 29 and 53, and further in view of the discussion at the interview, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

a. Claims 29 and 53 of the present application

Claim 29 relates to a method for displaying images on a display device wherein the display device includes at least one general processing unit and a display comprising a plurality of display units with corresponding processing units. According to the method, a data stream and a control signal are transmitted to the individual processing units from the general processing unit. Both the data stream and the control signal are individually distinct, such that data from the data stream at each of the individual processing units is collected as a function of control signals transmitted to the individual processing units.

Claim 53 generally recites a display device having the features of the method of claim 29, in particular a general processing unit that transmits an individually distinct data stream and control signal, and a control arrangement provided for each individual processing unit and configured to collect data from the data stream as a function of the control signals for processing and display.

b. Nishida disclosure

During the interview it was discussed that the Nishida disclosure describes transmitting display signals from a control device to respective display units. As is clearly shown in FIG. 4, the display signals of the Nishida disclosure contain both

data information and address information (col. 7, lines 25-28). More specifically, as described in col. 7, lines 49-67 in the Nishida disclosure, the display signal is a digital signal having a binary condition of high and low levels. A period of one cycle shown includes commands for one specific display unit. An address header indicates that address information will follow thereafter and a data header indicates that data information will follow thereafter. A cycle terminator is provided which is indicative of the end of one cycle.

As described in col. 8, lines 16-23, the display mode of a specific display unit can be controlled based on one cycle of the display signal. By continuously transmitting fifty cycles of the display signal, commands of required display modes to all of the fifty display units can be controlled.

c. Comparison of claims 29 and 53 from the Nishida disclosure

In view of the description in the Nishida disclosure, it is clear that the address information and the data information form a continuous stream such that the address and data information are not individually distinct and instead form a signal wherein the data information is interposed between an address header and a cycle terminator.

Contrary to the display signal of the Nishida disclosure, the method of claim 29 and device of claim 53 of the present application operate such that as the data stream and control signals are transmitted to each of the individual processing units. Each display unit according to claims 29 and 53 can work independently of the other ones, thus requiring no communication with a central individual processing unit (specification, page 3, lines 6-17). This arrangement results in distributed signal processing between the general processing unit and the individual processing units. Moreover, this arrangement implies some calculations are made in the general processing unit and other calculations are made in each of the individual processing units (specification, page 3, lines 28-35).

As recited in claims 29 and 53 of the present application, data is collected from the data stream at each of the individual processing units as a function of control signals transmitted to the individual processing units. Accordingly, calculations are made at each individual processing unit based on the collected data from the data stream as a result of the control signals specific to each respective individual processing unit.

The Nishida disclosure simply does not describe or suggest the feature of collecting data from a data stream on the basis of a control signal. It is submitted that the feature of collecting data from a data stream on the basis of a control signal cannot be achieved by the display device of the Nishida disclosure since the display signal is a continuous stream of information with an address header, data header, data information, and a cycle terminator. Moreover, there does not appear within the Nishida disclosure a description of processing data at individual processing units on the basis of a control communication within a control signal for specific individual processing units. Instead, the display signal of the Nishida disclosure includes both the address information and the data information for a particular display device, thus requiring more processing at a central processing unit than at the display devices themselves.

In view of the amendment to claims 29 and 53, and further in view of the observations provided above, it is respectfully submitted that the Nishida disclosure fails to describe or suggest the method of claim 29 and the device of claim 53. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

5. Rejection of claims 34-36 and 39-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,097,351 (Nishida) in view of U.S. Patent 5,396,257 (Someya et al.)

Claims 34-36 and 39-44 currently stand rejected as being obvious over the disclosures of Nishida and Someya et al. Claims 34-36 and 39-44 depend either

directly or indirectly from claim 29. Thus, it is maintained that claims 34-36 and 39-44 are patentable in view of the patentability of claim 29 and their individually recited features.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the basis that the disclosure of Someya et al. fails to overcome the basic shortcomings in the teachings of Nishida, as detailed above in reference to claim 29. More specifically, the Someya et al. disclosure fails to disclose or suggest a method for displaying images on a display device including at least one general processing unit and a display comprising a plurality of display units with corresponding processing units wherein a data stream and a control signal that are individually distinct from one another are transmitted to the individual processing units from the general processing unit. Furthermore, the Someya et al. disclosure fails to describe or suggest the feature of collecting data from the data stream at each of the individual processing units as a function of control signals transmitted to the individual processing units.

Accordingly, in view of these observations, Applicants courteously submit that the Nishida and Someya et al. disclosures, whether considered collectively or individually, fail to suggest each and every feature of claim 29 from which claims 34-36 and 39-44 depend. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

6. Conclusion

In view of the amendment to claims 29 and 53, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 29-50 and 53-62 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

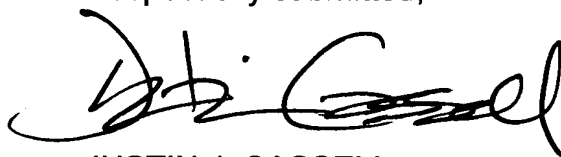
If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicants' Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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amendment 200904.wpd

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin J. Cassell", written over a horizontal line.

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